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NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2012

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White House Announces Nominee for Central District of California Judgeship

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has nominated Deputy Federal Public Defender Jesus G. Bernal to serve as a district judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The White House announced the nomination Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Mr. Bernal, 48, was nominated to fill a judgeship left vacant when District Judge Stephen G. Larson resigned on November 2, 2009.

Mr. Bernal has worked in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California since 1996. He was an assistant FPD in the Los Angeles division until 2006, when he was promoted to directing attorney of the Riverside division. Prior to his public service, he worked from 1991 to 1996 as a litigation associate at the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe LLP in Los Angeles, where he focused primarily on complex civil litigation.

A native of Mexico, Mr. Bernal received his B.A. in 1986 from Yale University, where he graduated *cum laude*, and his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1989. Following law school, he clerked for District Judge David V. Kenyon of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California from 1989 to 1991.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, one of the busiest federal trial courts in the nation, reported 16,571 cases in fiscal year 2011. The court is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has two vacancies.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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